



HOUSE RESOLUTION 17-1009

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CONCERNING THE AWARENESS OF MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE.

WHEREAS, Meningococcal disease is any infection caused by the bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis*; and

WHEREAS, Although 1 in 10 people are carriers for this bacteria with no signs or symptoms of disease, sometimes *Neisseria meningitidis* bacteria can cause illness; and

WHEREAS, In the United States, there are approximately 800 to 1,500 cases of meningococcal disease that occur each year; and

WHEREAS, 10 to 15 infected individuals out of 100 will die even when treated, while about 10 to 20 out of every 100 people who survive will suffer from serious morbidity, including loss of limbs and impacts to the nervous system; and

WHEREAS, Infants under one year of age, as well as young adults between the ages of 16 and 23, are among those most commonly impacted by this disease; and

WHEREAS, Meningococcal disease is spread from person to person via the exchange of the bacteria through respiratory and throat secretion during close or lengthy contact; and

WHEREAS, Community settings in which large groups of people gather, like college campuses, can increase the risk of the spread of meningococcal disease; and

WHEREAS, There are different strains or serogroups of *Neisseria meningitidis*, with serogroups B, C, and Y accounting for most meningococcal diseases in the United States; and

WHEREAS, There have been several recent outbreaks of serogroup B meningococcal disease on college campuses, with some cases resulting in death; and

WHEREAS, There are vaccines that help provide protection against all three serogroups (B, C, and Y) commonly seen in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Vaccination for serogroups A, C, W, and Y is routinely recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends that decisions to vaccinate adolescents and young adults 16 through 23 years of age against serogroup B meningococcal disease should be made at the individual level with health care providers; and

WHEREAS, It is critical that students, parents, educators, and health care providers understand the dangers of serogroup B meningococcal disease and are aware that a vaccine is available to prevent disease resulting from this serogroup; now, therefore,

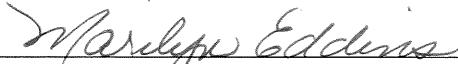
Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-first General Assembly of the State of Colorado:


(1) That the recent incidences of meningococcal disease have served as a reminder of the critical role vaccinations play in helping to prevent this devastating illness;

(2) That we, the members of the Colorado House of Representatives, encourage and urge all private and public high schools, colleges, and universities in the state to take reasonable steps to provide information to all students and parents about meningococcal disease, explaining the different disease serogroups, symptoms, risks, and treatment;

(3) That such information shall also include the notice of availability, benefits, risks, and limitations of all meningococcal vaccines receiving a recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), including Category A and Category B recommendations, with specific information as to those persons at higher risk for the disease; and

(4) That each private and public high school, college, and university shall recommend that current and entering students receive meningococcal vaccines in accordance with current ACIP guidelines.


Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES


Crisanta Duran
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES